

Maybole & District

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2006

SECOND EDITION

From the publishers of THE CARRICK GAZETTE



Banding together?

INSIDE YOUR MAYBOLE & DISTRICT NEWS

Centre Pages Maybole



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to
belong
to
the
people?

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reunite
for
tour of
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for Burns country



Election time for Maybole Ward

FOUR candidates have been nominated for a by-election taking place on February 2, 2006 to fill a vacant seat on South Ayrshire Council in Electoral Ward No 27 – North Carrick and Maybole East.

The poll will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. that day.

The vacancy has occurred following the resignation of Councillor Andy Hill, who was elected to the Maybole ward in 1995, and who, since May, 1999, when the number of wards was increased, and the Maybole ward split, had represented the then newly created North Carrick and Maybole East ward.

The ward covers all of Maybole east of the Glasgow/Stranraer railway line and the villages of Kirkmichael and Straiton. Four polling places will be used – Cairn Primary School and St Cuthbert's Church Hall in Maybole, McCosh Hall, Kirkmichael and the McCandlish

Hall, Straiton.

The count will take place in Maybole Town Hall.

At the May, 2003, South Ayrshire Council Election, Andy Hill, Scottish Labour Party candidate was returned with a majority of 262.

The candidates nominated for the by-election are:

Brian Connolly, Independent.
Ann Galbraith, Scottish Conservative and Unionist.
Sandra Goldie, The Scottish Labour Party Candidate.
William McCubbin, Scottish National Party (SNP).



INDEPENDENT candidate Brian Connolly.

LOCAL Councils were established to allow local communities to have a voice, their local representative, on the administration of their region. I believe passionately, that our representative should have an intimate knowledge and relationship with our Ward and only two candidates in this election satisfy that requirement. No Ward should have a representative from afar, imposed on them for the convenience of a political party.

We have witnessed the administration of South Ayrshire Council (SAC) as each party automatically opposed the other, regardless of the merits of their argument. The Conservative Party then changed the Standing Orders, we will follow the rules until they don't suit us and then we will change them. Sounds like refereeing a football match! The Labour Party, in retaliation, walks out of a meeting en-masse. Party politics is the only business where doing nothing but making the other party look bad is an acceptable outcome.

The future of Maybole Golf Course is the

latest issue, with responsibility being feverishly avoided. There is a real possibility of our Golf Course being closed and sold to provide a short term fix to the current financial crisis. Elect a Labour or Conservative Councillor and they will be obliged to follow the Party policy. A representative free of Party obligations is the only one able to defend our Ward.

We have the opportunity to elect a representative whose priority is what is best for our Ward and South Ayrshire. We will search for common ground and negotiate and compromise to reach the best deal for our region. We must continually strive to raise the standard of the package SAC provides, value for every penny they spend on our behalf.

As a community councillor and member of the by-pass committee I have given my time to the Ward and have an intimate knowledge of our issues. I am fully committed to these issues and believe that I have the knowledge and personal qualities to ask for your approval to be your local Councillor.

THIS by-election comes at a time when South Ayrshire is calling out for change.

And locally there are so many issues that need to be tackled. Maybole desperately needs a by-pass – everybody agrees with that yet no-one at Scottish Executive level seems to be prepared to do anything about it. So we must do more ourselves and I am joining with the Maybole By-pass committee in their launch of a programme of action this weekend.

A report, requested by Labour, has recommended the closure of Maybole golf course. This is not going to happen but as your councillor I would doubly help ensure that this is the case.

Then there's the plan to close the Accident and Emergency unit at Ayr Hospital. We must not sit by and let it happen; pressure must still

be applied by the council to stop the transfer. I could go on – I haven't even touched on the huge council deficit and the high council tax which must be addressed urgently.

As Editor of the Ayr Advertiser and Carrick Herald, I wrote a weekly column – One Woman's View – hitting out at what I thought was wrong in South Ayrshire and the subject of my criticism was, as often as not, the council.

I feel I've shouted long enough from the sidelines – now I feel it's time to put my money where my mouth is and that is why I have decided to stand for the council.

I live in Crosshill, I shop in Maybole and use the local facilities and want to represent the best interests of the community where it's possible to get things done – in the council chamber.



SANDRA Goldie, The Scottish Labour Party Candidate.

AS A health visitor who worked in Maybole and Carrick for many years I know first hand what matters to hardworking local residents and their families.

The blight of anti-social behaviour is being raised with me time and again on the doorsteps. South Ayrshire Council and the Police must take tough action, using whatever steps are necessary, to clampdown on anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drug-dealing.

Maybole desperately needs a bypass and once elected, I will work with Labour colleagues Cathy Jamieson MSP, Sandra Osborne MP and Councillor Alan Murray to press the case in the strongest possible terms.

I believe an active, caring councillor can make a difference in tackling these problems. If elected I would not be able to wave a magic wand and relieve the A&E unit or deliver a by-pass but I will speak out on these issues.

I will pursue a clean up for Maybole, better off street parking and traffic calming measures, more visible policing and support for better youth facilities.

As for the council chamber itself my voice and my vote will not be subject to party whips but will be used at all times to protect the interests of Maybole East & North Carrick.

It appears Tory control is secure till the 2007 elections thanks to local Labour's mismanagement. But I will fight tooth and nail against cuts in vital services or ludicrous proposals such as the sell off of Maybole golf course.

Neither should the Council's books be balanced at the expense of council tax payers. What is needed is a sustained attack on wasteful expenditure and inefficiencies.

With the support of my ain folk I would look forward to that challenge.



ANN Galbraith, Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate.

I am delighted at the new all-weather sports pitches at Carrick Academy. This excellent facility will be a real asset to local communities. I want to see South Ayrshire Council listening to the views of local young people and providing more facilities and activities for them.

Voters face a simple choice in this by-election. A vote for any other party but Labour will give complete control of the Council to the Tories. We know you can't trust the Tories to run our vital public services.

Only a vote for Labour on February 2 can stop Tory cuts.

I will be active on your behalf. A Labour Councillor who is on YOUR side, working tirelessly for what matters most to you.



WILLIAM McCubbin, the Scottish National Party candidate.

CHURCH NEWS

Maybole Parish Church

THINGS are now moving ahead as the sign has been erected on our site, and application and approval is being applied for to demolish the existing buildings, and to clear the site ready for construction work. There is still a lot of work to do before we can start building the New Church and community facilities.

The new church, community and youth facilities are on display in the resource centre.

The Maybole music CD of our choir and organ memories is on sale in the Resource Centre together with bookmarks and coasters depicting both churches.

We continue to worship in Baptist Church and enjoy Christian Fellowship and continued warm welcome receive from them.

Rev. Dave Whiteman

Our Lady & St. Cuthbert's Church

ALL the hard work done painting and decorating Our Lady and St. Cuthbert's paid off at Christmas. The Church looked a fitting place to celebrate the birthday of Christ.

The packed congregation at midnight Mass joined heartily in the carol singing and throughout the service there was a real sense of a family celebrating a special birthday.

The Sunday morning continued the theme with the children singing Happy Birthday to Jesus, and then a surprise visitor appeared with goodies to share – Santa made a first visit to our Church!

The previous Sunday had seen over thirty senior citizens enjoy a great Christmas dinner with some of the younger members of the parish providing the entertainment, ably assisted by Fr. Stephen on the piano.

The school children presented their Christmas drama in the Church on the Tuesday before Christmas and it was voted by everyone as of exceptionally high quality. Congratulations to the school!

Fr. Stephen also took the youth of the parish to see Narnia, which was a great success.

Altogether, the year 2005 has seen the parish work together as a community in many and varied ways. The children, the young and the rest of us alongside our parish priest have a real sense of togetherness and there were many outreaches to the disadvantaged locally and internationally.

In January we begin our outreach to those interested in joining the Church, with an informal evening to explain what it's all about and answer any questions enquirers may have. For more information call 01655 882145.

Ellen Hawkes

Community News Items from around the area

Dunure

Hall and Parks Committee

DUNURE Hall and Parks Committee would like to thank everyone who returned a completed survey in December, and congratulate the winners of the £20 gift tokens which were drawn from the returned survey:

Jill & Robert Young, Gerry Davidson, Andrew Guthrie, Jeanette Breckenridge and Margaret Masterman.

If you indicated that you were interested in helping with the Hall and Parks Committee, or the Sports Bid, Janey McCreath will be in touch with you soon to invite you to an informal information session in February. If you didn't return a survey, but are interested in finding out more about either of these, please contact Janey on 01292 500320 after 5pm.

Kennedy Hall Lets

THE Kennedy Hall in Dunure is available for let for functions, parties, events and exhibitions. For more information and hire rates, please phone Janey McCreath on 01292 500 320 after 5 pm.

Dunure Website

HAVE you seen the Dunure Community Council website? Log on to www.dunure.info to find out what is happening in the village, and you will find contact details on the site if you have anything you would like to contribute.

Daily

Daily Scout Group

DAILY Scout Group is taking 25 members to the Bi-Annual Scottish Jamborette at Blair Atholl in July. This is a great opportunity for the boys and girls to meet and participate with other scouts from all over the world in a wide range of activities.

The group would be delighted to hear from anyone who could help in any way with sponsorship or a supply of camping equipment. In particular, the group is hoping to find someone willing to lend them the use of a trailer to transport their camping equipment to and from the Jamborette.

If you can help, please contact Mr Ronald Turnbull on 01465 811424.

AS A Carrick man born and bred and having raised a family and operated a business in Maybole for many years I believe I know the people and understand the issues facing our communities.

That said, I was determined that my campaign should not presume anything and that's why it was launched with a comprehensive survey of the views and opinions of all local voters.

The hundreds of responses we got established a number of key priorities.

Firstly it is vital that the A&E unit at Ayr Hospital is retained.

Secondly road safety is a major worry not just in Maybole High Street but a crackdown is needed on speeding on roads in and out of the town and villages.

Other significant concerns include the shabby appearance of Maybole. The buildings in the High Street particularly the empty shops need a makeover, littering and dog fouling are growing problems and of course we are not immune from the modern diseases of anti-social behaviour and drug related crime.

Honours for Maybole

FOR a town the size of Maybole, to have three local people receive prestigious awards for their community work over the last six months is quite an achievement.

First off was David Kiltie, who was stunned to discover last summer that he had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community of Maybole.

Surrounded by his wife Margaret, six daughters and nine grandchildren, the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Major Richard Henderson, invested on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, David Kiltie as a Member of the Order of the British Empire last December in Maybole Town Hall.

Major Henderson described David as an "excellent example to others of active citizenship".

David was delighted that permission was granted for him to receive his award in the Town Hall. He said: "Because I was receiving the MBE for services to the community of Maybole, the Town Hall was the only place that made sense to me."

"It's an honour. It came totally out of the blue but I see it as recognition for the town."

By a very strange coincidence, David hasn't been the only local recipient of the MBE recently.

Even more cannily, David's fellow MBE was also educated at Cairn Primary and Carrick Academy.

Former Maybole woman Ann Coleman, nee Clark, now lives on a small farm in Greengairs, Lanarkshire with her

husband, having left the town in 1971, although her mum still lives in Maybole.

Ann was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours for her work in the community, which started when a public notice appeared in the local paper to extract coal by opencast on two farms about half a mile along the road from her.

Recalling her upbringing in the rural idyll of Maybole, Ann fought the application right through a Public Inquiry, but unfortunately lost out.

However, Ann's fight led her to be among the first students in Europe to gain a Certificate of Higher Education in Environmental Justice through Friends of the Earth and Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh and also resulted in changes to a Planning Policy.

Of her MBE Ann said: "It's a good feeling to have David Kiltie, a fellow Mayboleite as an MBE. I am still trying to get my head round it!"

Last, but by no means least, Pearl Barton was named as the 'Carrick Gazette Citizen of the Year' in January and was thrilled at the honour.

Rutherglen born Pearl received a string of nominations for her devotion and unstinting work with a number of organisations in the area, and her nominees thought it would be "lovely to see her getting something nice in return for her hard work and dedication".

Presently Pearl is a member of Maybole Community Council, Chair of the OiR and OAP committees, on the committee of Ayrshire Housing, The Diamond Club, Maybole Charity shop, Maybole Community Association and was recently instrumental in reforming the Maybole Senior Forum.

As well as this, Pearl takes locals who don't drive to hospital appointments and for their shopping, always willing to lend a hand whenever she can.

One of the people who nominated her said: "Pearl does so much to help people in so many ways. She is so good with everyone she meets."

However, the 74 year-old typically credits others for the work she does: "I know everybody says it, but I honestly wouldn't have got this award without the hard work of the other volunteers on the committees."

"If I can do anything to help someone out, I will", she said.



PEARL, front centre, goes through the paces with the Diamond Club girls.



MAYBOLE'S David Kiltie with his grandchildren after being presented with the MBE.



FORMER Maybole woman, then Ann Clark (second row from front, far right), in her school days at Maybole.

Any interesting news stories?

Contact



Carrick

GAZETTE

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ORGANISATIONS IN MAYBOLE

CHURCH GROUPS

Maybole Parish Church Guild, Mrs S Chapman. 889656; Baptist Church Women's Fellowship, Ms Anne McPike. 882467; Maybole & District Trefoil Guild, Miss E McCrindle. 882212; Maybole Ecumenical Prayer Group, Mrs E Hawkes. 882747; Our Lady & St Cuthberts Guild, Mrs N Connolly. 882656; St Cuthberts Parish Council (Sec), Mrs Hamilton. 883408; Maybole Council of Churches, Ms Becky Fleming. 882106.

CLUBS

MMP Bowling Club, Mr C Kincaid. 882968; Pontoon Golf, Mr W Westcott. 889598; Maybole Ladies Golf Club, Mrs H McCormack. 01292 560952; Maybole Bowling Club, Mr J Conkie. 882169; Carrick Homing Society, Mr Robert Malone. 882006; Maybole Angling Club, Ms I Davidson. 07779818311; Carrick Chess Club, Mrs S Macgilchrist. 882728; Maybole Juniors, Mr A Meek. 883419; Carrick Bridge Club, Mrs Ann Morrison. 883197; Maybole Indoor Bowls Club, Ms S Scobie. 882942; Tackety Bit Hillwalking Club, Mr Drew Mc Gill. 882407; Maybole Amateur Swimming Club, Mrs M McGawn. 883423; Carrick Rugby Club, Mr K Anderson. 882105; Maybole Amateur Football Club, Mr G Cuthbert. 882945.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Line Dancing, Ms Anne McDicken. 01655 883862; Aqua Aerobics, Mr P Ingram. 882568; Karate Club, Mr Rooney. 01292 552756; Maybole Majorette & Dance School, Mrs A Bissett. 882872; Carrick Stompers (Line Dancing), Mrs J. Thomson. 883086; Maybole Men's Forum, Mr J Paterson. 882137; Maybole Ladies Forum, Ms S Fergusson. 882660.

INFORMATION

Over The Rainbow Project, Mr John Barr. 883971.

ORGANISATIONS

Historical Society, Mr M Cook. 883235; Town Twinning, Mr W Grant. 883312; Ayrloom, Mr D Killicoate. 07776 445033; Maybole Pipe Band, Mrs Julie Fulton. 01292 440423; Maybole Concert Party, Mrs M Hutchison. 882469; Maybole & District Business Ass., Mr Alan Martin. 884388.

PRE SCHOOL

Maybole Mums & Toddler Group, Ms T McPherson. 882515; Tiddlers & Tadpoles Parents & Toddlers, Gail Murray. 01655 889411; Tiny Tots Playgroup, Tracy Campbell; Gardenrose Primary School/Nursery, Mrs Scott. 883227

SCHOOLS

Cairn Primary Parents Assoc., Ms Alison Davidson. (Tel. Contact School); Cairn Primary School Board, Mrs J Wallace. (Tel. Contact School); Cairn Primary School/Nursery, Mrs Fiona McDougall. 883292; Carrick Academy, Mr R Stewart. 882389; Carrick Academy School Board, Ms C Czerkowska. (Tel. Contact School); Gardenrose Parents Ass., Ms Becky Fleming. 882106; Gardenrose Primary School Board, Mrs S Whiteman. 889456; St Cuthbert's Parents Association, Mrs Frances Campbell. 882349; St Cuthbert's Primary School, 882349; St Cuthbert's Primary School Board, Mr G Murphy. 882349.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Maybole O.I.R., Mrs M Barton. 883218; O.A.P. Maybole, Mrs M Barton. 883218; Crosshill Village Club, Mrs B White. 01655 740391; North Carrick Elderly Forum, Mrs J Steele. 883088; Diamond Club, Mrs M Barton. 883218; The Cabin, Mrs N Robertson. 883937; Senior Citizens Tuesday Club, Mrs E McEwan. 883131.

VOLUNTARY

Maybole Charity Shop, Mrs E McEwan. 883131; Royal British Legion Women's Section, Mrs J Rodger. 882843; Royal British Legion Scotland, Mr R Malone. 882006; Maybole South Residents & Tenants, Mr R Wilson. 883422; Maybole Community Council, Mrs A Walker. 882796; Maybole Community Association, Mr D Killicoate. 07776445023; Carrick Crime Prevention, Mr Alex Kelly. 882970; Carrick Round Table, Mr Alan Thom. 01655 750226; Maybole & Girvan Action Research, Ms S Erskin. 01655 740218.

YOUNG CHILDREN

Maybole After School Care, Miss B Gillespie. 07754695570.

YOUTH GROUPS

Maybole Youth Action Group, Mrs S Whiteman. 889456; Carrick Street Kids, Mrs Moira Gill. 883238; Maybole Youth Club, Ms Yvonne Kiltie. 882105; The Carrick Colts, Mr T Dempsey. 882726; Maybole Beavers, Mrs J Boughen. 882683; 1st Maybole Boys Brigade, Mr J Shields. 882662; 1st Maybole Brownies, Ms S Fergusson. 882660; Maybole Cubs, Mrs J Boughen. 882683; 1st Maybole Guides, 7th Ayrshire Scout Group, Mr L Boughen. 882683.

To add any new details for organisations in Maybole please contact Maybole Resource Centre.

Community castle for Maybole?

MAYBOLE Community Resource Centre is working in partnership with local voluntary organisations in an attempt to bring ownership of Maybole Castle into the community.

The trustees of Cassillis Estate are open to the possibility of community ownership of this historic local castle in the heart of the town.

The Resource Centre is currently working on establishing a partnership with Maybole Community Council, Maybole Historical Society, Maybole Community Association, Maybole and District Business Association and May-Tag Ltd.

"The aim is to form a community company limited by guarantee with charitable status to manage this unique and innovative project," said the Resource Centre's Peter Walker.

The goal would be to establish a local heritage museum, visitors centre and café, as well as expanding family history research and tourist information.

It is also hoped to create an arts and craft facility, local natural history facility, an educa-

tion centre, and establish an 18th century kitchen garden in the grounds of the castle.

The project has attracted an offer of £450,000 funding from Historic Scotland towards the restoration of the castle roof, and a grant of £5,000 from Awards for All for architects' fees.

Discussions are taking place with Lottery Heritage Fund and others to assist with further restoration and improvements.

The resource centre is currently working on establishing a dedicated development team to work on the castle project and other partnership Social Enterprise projects with Cassillis Estates, and has secured £25,000 towards the team from Communities Scotland.

The Resource Centre's Peter Walker explained: "Over recent months during discussions with the estate factor Chris Savage other projects like a woodlands project and community composting have emerged. These have the potential to bring new employment and training opportunities to North Carrick."

These developments will bring a wider bene-

fit to the town according to Peter.

He said: "The establishment of a heritage museum and visitors centre in the castle will bring new and more visitors to Maybole, the Capital of Carrick, which will bring new employment and economic benefit to the town. Great interest has been shown by local businesses who can see new opportunities and major benefits to the town."

The Resource Centre has held several presentations to local councillors, MP, MSP, potential funding partners, local organisations and businesses that are willing to be involved and back this innovative project.

Last year Maybole Historical Society opened the castle for 25 days and over 1000 visitors viewed the castle and the Historical Society's heritage collection.

"There is still a long way to go before the project is ready, but with the backing of local groups and businesses this is a unique opportunity for Maybole," said David Kiltie, Chairman of Maybole Community Council.



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Woodlands project to boost local employment and skills

A WOODLANDS project between a Maybole training organisation and a local estate could boost social enterprise in the town.

A partnership with Cassillis Estate and May-Tag Ltd is being proposed to create a woodlands project to increase local employment and training opportunities.

Maybole Community Council's David Kiltie feels the scheme will benefit the town.

He said: "A project which brings new employment and training opportunities to the town and district is to be encouraged and supported."

The Cassillis Estate has a large area of woodland where it is proposed to look at the feasibility of setting up a training and development initiative.

The scheme would look at woodland management and arboricultural skills; this could see benefits in terms of employment, skills development and biodiversity.

Through the project, May-Tag will work with the community and provide training skills in woodland management, conservation, including dry stone dyking, hedge and wildlife conservation, and estate maintenance.

It is also planned that craft skills, such as making walking sticks, willow fencing and products, charcoal production and wood bowl turning will be taught.

May-Tag is also looking at the possibility of stone masonry training and Dry stone dyke skills, in conjunction with Cassillis Estate, Culzean Country Park and the Maybole Castle project.

The proposed partnership is with Cassillis Estate, May-Tag Ltd, Scottish

Woodlands and the Forestry Commission.

May-Tag has over 16 years of experience in the management of horticultural training, and community involvement.

The Cassillis estate factor said the trustees were pleased to be working in partnership with the community and May-Tag on these projects.

May-Tag are members of the Community Woodlands Association and the Community Recycling Network Scotland and is currently working with both to gain European and National funding for the Social Enterprise projects. Now, £25,000 has been secured from Communities Scotland toward a dedicated development team to move these innovative projects forward.

A Social Enterprise is a relatively new term for the type of business that May-Tag has been involved in for the last 16 years.

"A Social Enterprise is an organisation that trades in goods or services and links that trade to a social mission," explained Maybole Resource Centre's Peter Walker. "It is a not-for-profit organisation that uses its income and benefits to reinvest and create community and social benefits."

One of the benefits from the woodlands project will be a woodchip and log scheme which would work in conjunction with the Fuel Poverty scheme, the project would also provide logs for local disadvantaged people.

Maybole Castle's heating system is currently an oil fuelled boiler; by changing it to a modern wood fired boiler the woodland project will provide the fuel which brings environmental and economic ben-

efits.

The proposed community-composting scheme is a windrow system, which will compost green waste from

local business and the community.

"All the Social Enterprise projects have the possibility of bringing new employment and training opportunities



CHRIS Savage and Peter Walker plan the new woodland project at Cassillis Estate.

Forum looks to improve health

MAYBOLE Men's Health Forum has been running for over three years now and exists to give all local men the opportunity to improve their health.

Members exercise at their own level, on a regular basis at Carrick Academy from 7.30pm - 8.30pm on Thursday evenings.

Fluid levels are then 'stabilised' by some members locally from 9.00pm until later!

A fully qualified instructor runs the sessions and members range in age from 'fairly young' to 'fairly old'!!

Members get free health checks throughout the year and once a month a guest instructor provides a 'taste' of a different activity. In the past members have had free golf lessons, swimming and aqua aerobics, hill walking and a variety of other activities.

Discount cards issued by South Ayrshire will be distributed for use within the next couple of weeks.

The Men's Health Forum started back on January 12 and, following on the success of last year's 'guest activities', will be trying Tai chi, yoga and pilates as well as the regular Thursday evening circuit and aerobics training. The group had a very successful 'Games Night' in December when members and guests took part in table-tennis, darts, pool and dominoes. The next 'Games Night' will be held on Monday, April 3 at the Carrick Sports Club at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome so why not come along and join the Maybole Men's Health Forum either at a 'Games Night' or any Thursday at 7.30pm at Carrick Academy gym.



THE Old Pump in Maybole could make a return in the form of a replica as part of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund being planned by the Community Council, Community Association and the Historical Society.

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Academy 'friends reunited'

SCHOOL reunions have become popular in recent years but the one in 1995, when former pupils of Carrick Academy celebrated their 50th birthday at the school and afterwards at Carrick Sports Club in Maybole, had special meaning for ten of the "girls".

They had started Carrick Academy Primary in 1950 and they felt at that reunion that the years since they left school had just vanished and they got on as well as they had done at school.

They have continued to meet four times a year since 1995 and have visited Amsterdam, Paris, Dublin, Liverpool and Yorkshire to tour the Emmerdale set. They also have an annual visit to Largs where one of them now lives.

This time, however, to help celebrate their 60th birthday seven of the "girls" visited Toronto, Niagara and New York.

The Magnificent Seven "girls" are Betty Clark, Irene Cook, Helen Fulton, Betty Jackson, Nan Kelly, Sheila Menzies and Margaret Milroy – to use their maiden names so everyone will know who we are talking about!

They flew from Glasgow via Heathfield to Toronto for two nights, taking in all the sights of Ontario's capital city. Situated

566 feet above sea level on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, Toronto is Canada's largest city, with a population of 4.7 million.

One of the biggest attractions was the Canadian National (CN) Tower, which is 1,815 feet high. There was also time to eat out and to visit some of the local markets.

Then they took the train to Niagara Falls where the highlight was a trip behind the Falls. For this trip they were provided with protective rainwear and once they had put on the yellow raincoats they realised that being dressed alike and with seven of them there was only one thing to do – burst into a chorus of "Hi ho, hi ho" just like the Seven Dwarfs!

This immediately attracted the attention of other visitors who promptly took their photo, although a copy has not found its way to us – yet.

They also visited Niagara-on-the-Lake which came under fierce bombardment and was the scene of bloody battles when the United States invaded Canada in 1812. Today the town is still under siege, but by hordes of friendly tourists shooting cameras instead of muskets. Besides having the reputation as one of the prettiest towns in Canada, Niagara-on-the-Lake is

also one of the most fascinating historically.

The next stop was New York which the girls reached by train arriving at Penn Station. They spent three days seeing what the Big Apple had to offer and decided that three days was not long enough.

With 25 million visitors each year to its 843 acres, Central Park is the most frequently visited urban park in the United States so they headed there and also enjoyed a trip on a horse and carriage.

From their hotel on 42nd Street, they also visited Ground Zero (the memorial to September 11, 2001, a day that will forever be remembered), Grand Central Station,

Manhattan, the Bowery, 5th Avenue, St Patrick's Cathedral, and a cruise round Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. There was also time for the sale at Macy's – the world's largest store – and a night at the theatre to see "The Phantom of the Opera".

The trip of a lifetime had to come to an end, however, and so it was time to head back to Maybole.

The Magnificent Seven intend to continue their meetings four times a year and their trip away each year. They also have plans for a future foreign trip to help celebrate their 65th birthday and hope to retain their enthusiasm for travel for many years to come.



CARRICK Academy Primary pupils in 1956 - can you spot the Magnificent Seven?



CLEARLY not afraid of heights at the dizzying glass floored CN Tower some 1,815 feet above the city.



THE CN Tower was a must visit for the Maybole friends.



THE seven girls were among the 25 million annual visitors to New York's Central Park.



THE magnificent Niagara Falls was a favourite for the Magnificent Seven.

Visitors head to Maybole for summer walking and cycling tour

MAYBOLE is the place to get into the saddle or pull on your walking boots this summer as the Town Twinning organisation gets set for a Walking and Cycling Tour in July.

More than 70 visitors from all over Europe will join locals for the "Tour de Jumelage" annual cycling and walking tour between July 5 and 9 organised by Maybole Town Twinning.

Visitors will come from the towns of Crosne, France; Beloeil, Belgium; Schotten and Bogen, Germany; Arco, Italy and Rymarov, Czech Republic.

The group would welcome any individuals or groups of cyclists who would like to participate or assist in this event.

Cycling days will be Thursday, July 6 and Friday July 7. Refreshments will be provided and an invitation to a barbecue at Auchencruive on the Friday night will be extended to all people taking part and assisting.

Organisation of the event is well under way and the programme will be prepared by the end of January 2006.

Any interested parties please contact either William Grant, President on 01655 883312 or Hugh Anderson, Vice President on 01655 883150.

At the recent AGM of Maybole Community Council Town Twinning Association, chairman William Grant welcomed those present and gave his report for the year 2005.

Special thanks were given to the office bearers for their work and commitment throughout the year. It was disappointing that Crosne were not able to fulfil their visit to Maybole that had been planned for the end of October.

The office bearers and committee were elected and are as follows, Chairman – William Grant, Vice Chairman – Hugh Anderson, Secretary – Lesley Grant, Treasurer – Maureen Craig. Publicity – David Kiltie and Committee – Sally Anderson, John Campbell, Alex Davidson and Ian Hewitt.

The chairman then gave a report on the annual joint twinning meeting that was this year organised by Rymarov and was held in the town of Kyjov in the Czech Republic.

The joint twinning meeting will be organised by Maybole in 2008.

Maybole organised the South Ayrshire joint twinning quiz in the Memorial Park Bowling Club where 12 teams who represented the towns of Ayr, Girvan, Prestwick, Troon and Maybole had a very enjoyable evening under the capable control of quizmaster David Kiltie.

The competition was hard fought, but in total friendship, and at the end of the evening was won by Ayr Town Twinning. Maybole chairman William Grant thanked everyone for taking part, the club for their premises, the quizmaster, and the committee and last but not least the catering carried out superbly by Ian Hewitt.

Unfortunately, the Mayor of Crosne Alain Girard has announced that due to major roadworks within the town of Crosne that the Carnival planned for Pentecost in 2006 will be cancelled until 2007.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in Maybole Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. The committee welcome old and new members to these meetings.

www.maybole.org



MARY Watson passed away tragically young but left a "family treasure" to be cherished for generations to come.



THE treasured cup and saucer that travelled from Maybole to Canada.

Carol's 'family treasure' story helps light up web

ONE descendant of Maybole emigrants took inspiration from the website, a writing course and the words of Robert Louis Stevenson to create a delightful tale of "family treasure".

Carol McLellan's great Auntie emigrated with her family from Maybole to Canada in 1907.

Now Carol loves to log on to www.maybole.org to read about the town from her home at Salmon Arm in British Columbia.

Carol had written a story about her relatives and her friends and fellow genealogists encouraged her to put it on the website as there may be folk in Maybole who would like to read it.

However, it was the words of Robert Louis Stevenson that eventually convinced her to share her story.

Stevenson said: "The mark of a Scot of all classes is that he remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad; and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation."

"When I read Mr. Stevenson's words, their truth really came home to me," said Carol. "With regard to the manner in which my grandparents and parents had passed down the stories of our forebears from Maybole."

"Perhaps someone may be interested in the little story and if so I would be happy for it to be passed on."

"The wee girl in the story loved to sing

and I feel that each time her story is passed along she 'sings through time'.

SUNLIGHT flickering on the little cup and saucer had caught my eye.

At three and a half, I was tall enough to see the top of the cabinet, but not quite tall enough to reach.

I clambered up on the chair that stood alongside. As my fingers ventured towards the cup, Nana's voice rang out, "Come away, come away. Keep your wee mits off of that."

My lower lip began to quiver, as I beedled down from the chair.

A gentle arm soothed round my shoulder and I snuggled in for a cuddle.

"I didn't mean to give you a fright, lassie; I was afraid you'd break Mary's cup. That wee cup and saucer are a family treasure."

Treasure - family treasure - I had no idea our family had treasure!

"Who's Mary?" I puzzled aloud.

"Mary was my sister."

It had never occurred to me that my Nana might have a sister.

She stood very still for a moment, then flashed me a wink, "Let's make a pot of tea and I'll tell you about Mary and the wee cup and saucer."

To read the rest of Carol's story or to find out more about Maybole's past, present and future, log on to www.maybole.org

Commendation for Maybole website

LOCAL website www.maybole.org continues to attract visitors from all over the globe was recently commended in a national community award ceremony.

The website received a commendation in the Community Enhancement through the Internet category of the Calor Scottish Community of the Year Awards 2005.

Developed as a community based project, the

objectives of the site, which contains over a thousand pages, are to promote the town and its facilities to a wider audience, encourage communication and provide a source of community information.

"The Internet has had a profound effect on how we locate information and a remarkable number of Scottish communities have capitalised on these opportunities to promote inter-

activity and community spirit.

This has been successfully demonstrated by Maybole who has enjoyed an impressive 800,000 hits a month," said Dr Douglas Cruickshank, Community Enhancement through the Internet judge and course leader for MSc in e-Business at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

THE local website www.maybole.org continues to be a unique source of information, bringing people together from all over the world, helping people trace their family trees, introducing people to the internet and letting people know about a fascinating and much loved part of Scotland.

I AM contacting you on behalf of my newspaper "La Stampa" an Italian national newspaper to ask the permission to reproduce some photographs found on the website of Ailsa Craig island. We would like to publish them in a supplement dedicated to the winter Olympics which will take place in Torino 2006. Please let me know as soon as possible how we could proceed to obtain your authorisation. Thank you in advance,
Luisa Fava, Editrice, La Stampa.
(The article was on granite curling stones)

I HAVE just had a browse on the Maybole website, it is fantastic and a credit to you. I left Maybole in 1985 to join the Royal navy. I was on Polaris submarines for several years and had a great time discovering the far flung corners of the world. Since leaving I have settled in Glasgow and I am now married with three daughters. I love looking up the Maybole website and catching up with all the latest news in the town. Keep up the good work.

Andrew Robertson.

I JUST wanted to thank you for your website! I'm an American but as it turns out a descendant of a Maybole resident I found on the 1841 census through your FreeCen engine.

My name is James F. McIlmail, CDR, USN(ret) and my ancestor was Felix McIlmail born in 1835 in Ayrshire. I came to the Maybole site through an old family book given to Felix when he was young. What a delight to have found this link to your town! Thanks again and I would think you will be seeing me sometime in the future.

James F. McIlmail, CDR, USN(ret), Waldorf, Maryland, USA

THANK you and all involved for this wonderful web page. My father was born in Maybole in 1901. He came to the US in his early twenties. I have never met any of my relatives in Scotland, but hope to do so soon. Ewan Steed of "Roots" has done the family tree for me. I have bought my ticket and am Scotland bound next May. I check the page regularly as there is always something new.

Thanks again,
Sandra Miller Converse

Hi, my name is Louise (Wilson) Huff, you are to be congratulated on this brilliant site. I was born in Maybole 1954. Have lived in Australia 38 years. Was home in 1999, stayed with my cousin Maryann Lawrie, she came over in Sep this year had great three weeks touring. I live between Rockhampton and Yeppoon Qld, on 25 acres so she had the bush experience, although had hard time with our mosquitoes. My Auntie Minnie Gallagher and daughter Marion, granddaughter Stephanie and cousin Catherine, arrive in Rockhampton on the 13th Dec. so hope the heat's not too bad for them. Related so much to your Personal Statement Maybole will always be in my thoughts.

Thanks again for your hard work on this site, regards
Louise.

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MY name is Andrew Hay. I am a minister in regional Australia. I just thought I'd drop you a line to thank you for a most wonderful website. I originally went to the Maybole Home page searching for a history of Drumellan House (my Grandfather's birthplace 1882 - My great-grandfather was one of the gamekeepers there). I soon became engrossed in your extraordinary work and spent hours trawling through the superb pictures and information. The astonishing detail gives the visitor a real sense of presence and atmosphere. I look forward to visiting the area in the future.

Yours truly,
Andrew George Hay

Burns' country starts in Maybole

HOW can you have a story without a beginning? Until now the story of Robert Burns, our national bard, has been told with the opening of "born in Alloway on the 25th of January 1759."

All the Burns' trails promoted nationally ignore completely the life of Burns' parents prior to their move to Alloway shortly before he was born, although many do include their deaths by way of directions to their grave-stones!

Also omitted is the town of Maybole, possibly the most important place in the story because, if it were not for the market there, Burns' parents might never have met and there would have been no story at all!

Maybole Historical Society would like to see Maybole being given its proper prominence in the story alongside Alloway, Tarbolton, Irvine, Mauchline, Dumfries and other locations connected with the bard and will be working to correct all the omissions and promote Maybole as

"The start of Burns' Country in the very heart of it!"

It is fairly safe to say that, had it not been for Maybole and the Fair in the High Street where William Burnes met and fell for Agnes Brown, our national Bard might never have existed.

William and Agnes married in Maybole on 15th December 1757 and just over a year later, on 25th January 1759, Robert was born in nearby Alloway.

Maybole has many other connections with Burns in his later life and one of the subscribers to his Kilmarnock Edition of poems was Baillie Niven of Maybole. Returning to collect the money from his childhood friend, Robert Burns spent a convivial night in the Kings Arms, which sadly no longer exists except in old photos.

The Burns Trail rightfully begins in Maybole - at the cemetery gate where a church stood. The Bard's parents were wed there on December 15, 1757. Maybole singers Davie Anderson and Frances Dryburgh, who both featured in Burns an' a' That, are pictured at the scene.

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the marriage of William Burnes and Agnes Brown several local organisations are working together to put a bid to the Lottery Heritage Fund to allow the town to mark the occasion next year.

Proposals include:

- Siting of a perspex covered plinth in the small piece of garden in front of the Factor's Office at Maybole Castle containing the bust of Robert Burns originally situated on the top of the butcher's shop diagonally opposite.
- Special Day with extra events at the Greenside such as a market with local suppliers in period costume - market from 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- Special competition for shop windows in a 1757 theme with additional money sought for period costumes and decoration for each shop in the High Street.
- In addition to the normal Gala King and Queen etc



MAYBOLE singers Davie Anderson and Frances Dryburgh at the start of the Burns Trail in Maybole - at the cemetery gate where the church stood that the Bard's parents were wed in on December 15, 1757.

there would be a William Burnes and an Agnes Brown. Sponsorship of floats and walking groups which will all have a period theme. Parade to start normally at Carrick Academy but there would be a stop at the Castle while William Burnes meets Agnes Brown and escorts her to the Gala festivities

in the Glebe Park.

- Large Fair at the Glebe Park with special displays and stallholders in period costume.
- Addition of Maybole to the Burns trail and appropriate signage for the whole trail - starting in Maybole! (This will also have benefits in 2009)

- A series of events in the Castle and Town Hall around about December 15, 2007 themed on Burns' poetry and music to celebrate the anniversary of the wedding. A large depiction of the marriage could be projected on to the Castle.
- Possible production of DVD of all events.

May'bowl' brothers aim for the top

ONE half of Maybole's well-known Campbell bowling brothers delighted crowds at the Dewar's Centre in Perth recently, when he beat world number six Robert Weale on the opening day of action in the Scottish Masters.

Although 34-year-old Gavin was later knocked out of the competition by the eventual winner, he was absolutely delighted to get as far as he did, and is hoping to emulate that success in future tournaments.

Gavin and younger brother Graeme have become 'weel-kent' faces in the town for their achievements in the sport, but bowling started off as a pastime for Gavin, coming second to his love of football.

"I played football with Maybole Amateurs 'till I was about 21, then took up playing bowls," he said.

"My mum and dad were members of Maybole bowling club and Graeme started playing when he was about 11, so there was always a family connection with the sport."

A few short years down the line and both Gavin and Graeme had been capped at junior level for outdoor bowls, with Graeme also earning two full Scotland caps with the senior team later on.

The pair are members of the World Bowls Tour and Scottish Indoor Bowling Association, and normally go to Durham every year in an attempt to qualify for television tournaments such as the Scottish Masters, Welsh masters, World Singles and International Open.

Thanks to his success in qualifying over the last three years, Gavin gained a few extra ranking points and jumped to number 27 seed in the world after reaching the semi-finals of the BUPA Care Homes Open in Sheffield in 2003.

Over the years the lads have picked up the British Indoor Triples title in 1999, Two Bowl Pairs, Scottish Indoor Triples and the Scottish Fours to name but a few.

While Graeme is a member of Newton Park Outdoor bowling club in Ayr, Gavin

still plays for Maybole, and both brothers are members of Prestwick Indoor club.

Due to work commitments, bowling has taken a back seat in Graeme's life this year and he hasn't been able to get involved in the game as much as his older brother. Despite this, the 31-year-old still managed to win the Scottish Outdoor Pairs last summer and will be representing Scotland in the British Pairs later this year with Newton Park club member Gordon Nelson, a competition he secured victory at 12 years ago with Maybole Bowling club team-mate Malcolm Mitchell. The pair were later beaten in the British Final.

Mum Liz and dad Jim still play the odd game of bowls and are extremely proud of both their sons' sporting achievements.

"There is no rivalry between Graeme and I. We always support each other as much as possible when we are playing and so do our family," Gavin said.

Unlike many other sports, bowlers can continue to play 12 months a year, with the indoor season running from September to April, when the outdoor season kicks off.

Gavin laughs: "You just need to ask my wife Mandy if bowling takes up a lot of my time! She's really supportive of me, but she also hopes that our five-year-old daughter Kayleigh doesn't take up the sport!"

Gavin is now looking forward to the International Open in Wales in February, his 10th series with the Scotland team.

He is also hoping to have climbed a few places up the World Rankings List, which is also out next month.

"My main aim for the future is to make it into the top 16 players in the world as I wouldn't have to pre-qualify then," he said.

Gavin went on: "I'd definitely encourage youngsters to take up bowling. It has always been classed as an old man's sport for some reason, which makes it difficult to persuade young people to take an interest in it. Youngsters with family members



Maybole bowling brothers, Gavin and Graeme Campbell.

involved in the sport tend to take it up though, which is a good way to start.

"Maybole Bowling Club actually have a few young members which is great to see, and is what the sport needs."

Although Gavin remains an avid football fan, he has no regrets about taking up bowling, and is always grateful for the support he receives from locals. Gavin and Graeme also received 'Scrolls of Appreciation' from Maybole Community Council in 1999 for bringing recognition to the town through their achievements.

"Whenever you walk down Maybole High Street there's always somebody who'll stop me to say they saw me playing on TV or just to ask how I'm getting on, which is nice," he says.

"People in the town always take an interest, and like to see their sportsmen or women putting Maybole on the map."

"That's the type of place Maybole is - people encourage you and like to see you do well, and it's always great to receive recognition for your achievements from people in your community."